

News Release

Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District
1103 N. Fancher
Spokane, WA 99212-1275

Contact: Bill Schurger
509/665-2100
April 24, 2001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Agencies Propose Land Acquisition in Salmon Creek Area to Protect Fishery Values

Approximately 56 acres of land in the upper Salmon Creek area of Okanogan County is being proposed for acquisition by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to support the “Restore and Enhance Anadromous Fish Population and Habitat in Salmon Creek” project. The BPA is working with the BLM to fund acquisition of wildlife mitigation lands under the BPA Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program. The private land would be purchased in fee, using BPA funds, and managed to protect, mitigate, and enhance wildlife affected by the construction and operation of the federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River. These lands would become part of a block of public land included in BLM’s Okanogan Management Area.

The property includes about 0.75 mile of Salmon Creek at the site of the former town of Ruby. Prior to construction of an irrigation dam, steelhead and spring chinook salmon used Salmon Creek. Because fish passage has recently been provided at the dam, the stream could again serve as habitat for steelhead and spring chinook salmon. Steelhead and spring chinook salmon in the upper Columbia River region have both been federally listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Public comments on the agencies’ proposed acquisition of this tract should be mailed to the Field Manager, BLM Wenatchee Resource Area, 915 N. Walla Walla Ave., Wenatchee, WA 98801. The comment period closes May 14, 2001. For more information about the land acquisition, call Bill Schurger at the BLM Wenatchee Resource Area: (509) 665-2100.

- END -